



November 5, 2018

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
c/o Clerk of the Board
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Honorable Supervisors,

The State Coastal Conservancy commends County Long Range Planning staff on bringing the *Santa Barbara County Coastal Resiliency Project* before you today. The Coastal Conservancy contributed Climate Ready grant funds to the initial phase of the project in 2014, specifically the modeling, mapping and vulnerability assessment for the South Coast portion of the County. We also contributed to its development through participation in stakeholder and community meetings. Since the project was initiated, new research and guidance on incorporating sea level rise projections into policy has been published. The Conservancy understands the practical and funding limitations that exist to re-run the models each time new guidance is released. We acknowledge that this is a good first run at incorporating these emerging realities into policy.

The Conservancy supports staff's recommended LCP policy additions and updates, with one exception. New science continually points toward sea level rise exceeding earlier projections. For this reason, we encourage the strengthening policy 3-10 to include a coastal hazard setback of 100 years for residential or commercial structures, accessory dwelling units or manufactured homes, in order to better protect homes from potential coastal processes, and to protect coastal resources from impacts associated with armoring that could be proposed to protect property and structures, if threatened.

In 2017, County staff proposed and the Board adopted a 100-year bluff set back in the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan (EGVCP). For the Gaviota Coast Plan (GCP), the Coastal Commission recommended 100-year and County accepted a modification to Policy LU-13 to include a 100-year bluff setback for all development. In order to remain consistent with recent County coastal policy updates in the EGVCP and GCP, the current LCP Amendment to address sea level rise for the County's entire coastline should adopt the more protective 100-year setback standard for all coastal residential development.

1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-1401
510-286-1015 Fax: 510-286-0470



In order to remain consistent with recent County coastal policy updates in the EGVCP and GCP, the current LCP Amendment to address sea level rise for the County's entire coastline should adopt the more protective 100-year setback standard for all coastal residential development.

Again, I congratulate the great work staff has done to bring the LCP Amendment this far. I look forward to working with staff and leadership on other climate adaptation efforts in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Couch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Rachel Couch, Project Manager
Central Coast Program
State Coastal Conservancy